



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 5, 2020**

Senators Moore and Logan, Representatives Abercrombie and Case and members of the Human Services Committee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **S.B. No. 273 AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER DUAL DELIVERY OF STATE ADMINISTERED HUMAN SERVICES BY COMMUNITY NONPROFIT AGENCIES.**

S.B. No. 273 would create a 15-member task force to (1) examine how to increase the provision of direct services by community nonprofit providers; and (2) recommend how state-administered human services could be provided by community nonprofit providers in a more cost-efficient and effective basis.

For more than 30 years, DDS has been at the forefront of funding qualified nonprofit providers to provide direct services for individuals with intellectual disability. These services not only include residential services of various types (community living arrangements (CLA), continuous residential supports (CRS), intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, (ICF/IID)) but also individualized home supports (IHS), employment opportunities and day services, and services to support community companion home (CCH) licensees. DDS also contracts with two fiscal intermediaries to provide assistance to those families that hire staff through our self-directed program.

In the DDS **December 2019 Management Information Report (MIR)**, it shows that DDS state employees provided residential services to 487 individuals in a variety of different settings, including Southbury Training School, three regional centers and approximately 30 CLAs. In contrast, DDS qualified providers served 4,684 individuals in CLAs, CRSs, CCHs, and ICF/IIDs; accounting for about 90% of the residential services provided through the DDS network.

Specific to IHS services, the December 2019 MIR documented that 1,345 individuals received such services from qualified providers versus the 125 individuals who receive IHS services from DDS employees. In addition, all DDS employment and day services are provided through DDS qualified providers.

Overall, 95% of the department's network of direct services, including residential supports, IHS services and employment and day programs, are provided by community nonprofit providers.

In short, DDS is already a successful “dual-delivery” state agency that over the years has developed a strong network of qualified private provider agencies to deliver direct services to individuals with intellectual disability. With the trend continuing to move toward smaller, individualized community-based residences and the increased use of assistive technology along with the expansion of employment and day services, community nonprofit providers will continue to serve a vast and increasing majority of individuals funded by DDS.

In closing, I would like to note that with the increasing requests for state agency representation on task forces, we would respectfully request that the legislature consider the staffing constraint these task forces create on state agencies and the agencies’ senior staff. While we appreciate the need for the legislature to examine topics of interest to the various committees, task forces and work groups that review a wide-ranging array of subject matter, it is not just the Commissioner’s, or the Commissioner’s designee’s, time in meetings, but the senior staff’s time in researching and compiling answers and creating presentations for these various groups. DDS currently participates in several commitments to legislative task forces and work groups.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding [**S.B. No. 273**](#) **AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER DUAL DELIVERY OF STATEADMINISTERED HUMAN SERVICES BY COMMUNITY NONPROFIT AGENCIES**. Please contact Krista Ostaszewski, DDS Director of Legislation, Communications and Regulations at (860) 418-6066 with additional questions.